(c) whether Government have formulated set rules, to be followed strictly in future, in this regard;

(d) whether a committee which went into this, had confirmed that these companies have further damaged rocks while trying to remove advertisements from the rocks; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Supreme Court by their interim order dated: 26.9.2002 in Interlocutory Application No. 780 of 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has directed the payment of Rs. 1.00 Crore by the advertisers including Pepsi, Coca Cola, Birla White Cement and other companies, who had put up advertisements on rocks in Rohtang-pass, for restoration of the area. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has been given the responsibility of over-seeing repairing work of the damage done.

Increased Investment-Limit for New Environmental Project

1107. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have effected a change in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, which raises the investment-limit for new projects, from Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified around 16 categories of industries for relaxation;

(c) whether it would help to make the process simpler and quicker; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India through a Notification No. S.O. 632(E) dated 13th June, 2002 brought out certain amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification (EIA) of 27th January, 1994 including raising the investment limit from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 100 crores for 16 categories of new projects listed under Schedule-I of the said EIA Notification. The list includes infrastructure, thermal power, nuclear power and river valley projects also.

(c) and (d) The procedure for environmental clearance is reviewed from time to time in order to further streamline the process and make the decision making process simpler, time bound and more transparent.

New Pollution Control Laws

1108. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the centre has studied the impact of Himachal Pradesh Non-biodegradable Garbage Control Act, 1996, Himachal Pradesh Government Special Ordinance, on keeping Manali Town area free of pollution and environmental hazards:

(b) if so, the findings thereon; and

(c) whether the Centre would consider enactment of similar laws to protect Urban/Industrial conglomerations all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, powers have been vested with the local authority including Nagar Panchayat for removal of non-biodegradable garbage under the provisions of Non-Biodegradable garbage (Control) Act, 1995. Accordingly the Nagar Panchayat Manali has imposed ban on the use of Polythene bags. The Nagar Panchayat has also initiated a scientific project with the help of Norwegian Government and has started door-do-door collection of garbage. Further, the State Council for Science, Technology and Environment have organised workshop on the solid waste management in October, 2002 for increasing public awareness.

(c) Central Government has formulated and issued a comprehensive Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 under the powers conferred by section 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986). Under these rules every municipal authority has been made responsible for collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes in the country.

Death of Trees in Delhi

1109. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to various studies conducted by Kalpavriksh and